

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining a plant plants ~~[[,]]~~ tolerant with increased tolerance to abiotic drought or salt stress conditions relative to a corresponding wild type plant, said method comprising:

(a) introducing into one or more ~~[[a]]~~ cells, plant cell, plant tissue or organs of a plant, a nucleic acid molecule encoding or regulatory sequence wherein the introduction of said nucleic acid molecule results in the presence of a Cyclin Dependent Kinase (CDK) protein that is not susceptible to inhibitory phosphorylation under abiotic stress conditions mutein operably linked to a promoter which functions in a plant cell, wherein the CDK mutein has a non-phosphorylatable amino acid residue in a position that corresponds to the tyrosine located at position 15 in the amino acid sequence of *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1, and wherein the CDK mutein comprises a PSTAIRE cyclin binding motif;

(b) regenerating plants from the one or more cells, tissue or organs of (a);

(c) exposing the regenerated plants of (b) to drought or salt stress conditions; and

(d) selecting a plant with increased tolerance to drought or salt stress conditions compared to a corresponding wild type plant.

2. (Cancel)

3. (Cancel)

4. (Cancel)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1 wherein the CDK mutein further comprises a non-phosphorylatable amino acid residue in is free of phosphate at the tyrosine at a position that corresponds to the threonine located at position ~~[[15]]~~ 14 in the amino acid sequence of *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein the CDK ~~protein~~ mutein is free of phosphate groups at ~~both the tyrosine and the threonine~~ [[.]] amino acid residues corresponding to the tyrosine at position 15 and the threonine at position 14, in the amino acid sequence of CDKA;1 of *Arabidopsis thaliana*.
7. **(Cancel)**
8. **(Cancel)**
9. **(Cancel)**
10. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~any one of claim~~ [[7 to 9]] 1 or 5, wherein the CDK ~~mutein comprises a Y-15>F-15 mutation~~ non-phosphorylatable amino acid residue is phenylalanine.
11. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim [[10]] 5, wherein the ~~CDK mutein further comprises a T-14>A-14 mutation~~ non-phosphorylatable amino acid residue is alanine.
12. **(Cancel)**
13. **(Withdrawn)** The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said non-phosphorylated form of CDK is due to dephosphorylation and/or inhibition of phosphorylation of CDK.
14. **(Withdrawn)** The method claim 13, wherein said dephosphorylation is conferred by CDC25 or a functional analogue thereof, capable of dephosphorylation at least the tyrosine at position 15 of the endogenous CDK of said plant.
15. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 13, wherein sad inhibition of phosphorylation is conferred by the suppression of expression or activity of Wee-kinase, MIK, MYT or a functional equivalent thereof, inhibiting the endogenous phosphorylation of at least the tyrosine at position 15 of the CDK of the said plant.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 14 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes said CDC25, Wee-kinase MIK, MYT or functional analogue or equivalent thereof.
17. **(Cancel)**
18. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~17~~ 1 or 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding a CDK mutein operably linked to a promoter which functions in a plant cell regulatory sequence further comprises [a promoter,] at least one of an enhancer, silencer, intron sequence, 3' UTR region, ~~and/or~~ 5' UTR region, protein ~~and~~ or RNA stabilizing elements element.
19. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 18, wherein ~~said regulatory sequence~~ the promoter is a chimeric, tissue specific, constitutive or inducible promoter.
20. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 19, wherein ~~said~~ the inducible promoter is inducible by ~~abiotic~~ salt or drought stress.
21. **(Cancel)**
22. **(Currently Amended)** The method of any one of claims [[1 to 21]] 1, 5, 6, or 11, wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous or a dicotyledonous plant.
23. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 3]] or 5 wherein ~~said~~ the plant is a crop plant, root plant, oil producing plant, wood producing plant, agricultured biocultured plant, fruit producing plant, fodder or forage legume, companion plant or horticultural plant.
24. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 22 wherein ~~said~~ the plant is wheat, barley, maize, rice, carrot, sugar beet, ~~chicory~~[[,]] cotton, sunflower, tomato, ~~cassava~~[[,]] ~~grapes~~, soybean, sugar cane, flax, oilseed rape, tea[[,]] canola, onion, ~~asparagus~~, ~~carrot~~, ~~celery~~, ~~lentil~~, ~~broccoli~~, ~~cauliflower~~, ~~brussel sprout~~, ~~artichoke~~, ~~okra~~, ~~squash~~, ~~kale~~, ~~collard greens~~[[,]] rye, sorghum, oats, tobacco, pepper, grape, or potato.

25. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising ~~the~~ a nucleic acid molecule of claim
20 encoding a Cyclin Dependent Kinase (CDK) mutein wherein the CDK mutein comprises a
phenylalanine at a position corresponding to residue 15 in *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1, or
wherein the CDK mutein comprises an alanine and phenylalanine at positions corresponding
to residues 14 and 15 respectively, in *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1, wherein said nucleic
acid molecule is operably linked to a chimeric, tissue-specific, or abiotic stress-inducible
promoter.

26. (Currently Amended) A transgenic plant cell comprising the nucleic acid
molecule of claim 25 ~~at least one nucleic acid molecule of claim 20.~~

27. (Cancel)

28. (Previously Presented) A transgenic plant or plant tissue comprising plant cells
of claim 26.

29. (Currently Amended) The transgenic plant of claim 28 which displays
increased tolerance to ~~abiotic stress, preferably osmotic~~ drought or salt stress[,] compared to
[the] a corresponding wild type plant.

30. (Cancel)

31. (Currently Amended) Harvestable parts or propagation material of a plant of
claim 28 wherein the harvestable parts or propagation material comprise a nucleic acid
molecule encoding a Cyclin Dependent Kinase (CDK) mutein wherein the CDK mutein
comprises a phenylalanine at a position corresponding to residue 15 in *Arabidopsis thaliana*
CDKA;1, or wherein the CKI mutein comprises an alanine and a phenylalanine at positions
corresponding to residues 14 and 15 respectively, in *Arabidopsis thaliana* CDKA;1, wherein
said nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to a regulatory sequence comprising a chimeric,
tissue-specific, or abiotic stress-inducible promoter.